

overland migrations of people across America's Western frontier began. Their stories of hardship, perseverance, and courage are legendary, and they figure prominently in the history of the West. The trails they traveled, especially in Wyoming, still remain a visible testimony to the great struggles of these early American pioneers.

During the mid-1800's, Casper, WY, was the only geographic location in the Western United States where the Oregon, Mormon, California, and Pony Express trails, as well as many Indian trails converged. A fork of the Bozeman Trail and the beginnings of the Bridger Trail also originated in Casper. These trails are a distinctive part of our Nation's past and they possess important historical and cultural values representing themes of migration, settlement, transportation, and commerce that shaped the landscape of the West.

Congress has recognized the historical significance of these trails. The National Trails Systems Act, as amended in 1978 and 1992, designates the Oregon, Mormon Pioneer, California, and Pony Express Trails as "National Historic Trails." The act also directs the Secretary of the Interior to protect, interpret, and manage the remnants of these trails on Federal lands.

While large segments of these trails, and their associated historic sites lie on Bureau of Land Management [BLM] lands in Wyoming, no interpretive center is available in Wyoming, or any adjacent State, to educate the public on the role of these trails in our Nation's history.

In an effort to preserve and interpret this important history, today I am introducing legislation to establish the National Historic Trails Interpretive Center [NHTIC] in Casper, WY. The bill encompasses a unique partnership of Federal and non-Federal interests to jointly construct and operate this Center. These interests include the BLM, the city of Casper, and the nonprofit National Historic Trails Foundation. These entities came together in 1992 to build a center to memorialize and interpret the national historic trails in the West.

The interpretive and educational programs that will be associated with the Trails Center in Casper will enable visitors to discover and appreciate the miles of untouched trails that lie on public lands in the West. The Center will identify and help protect sensitive historic trail remnants to prevent degradation. The National Historic Trails Centers will also provide an opportunity for the BLM to showcase public lands emphasizing the Bureau's commitment to preserve lands of historical value.

Under the cooperative agreement, there is a clear commitment of non-Federal partners to share costs to construct, maintain, and operate the Trails Center. City, State, foundation, and private interests will bear approximately half of the total costs of the project. The city of Casper provided funds to initiate work on the Center. The city has also donated more than 10 acres of prime land overlooking the site of the North Platte River crossings of the historic trails for the Center. Furthermore, the citizens of Casper increased local sales taxes and have raised the required 1.5 million of construction dollars to meet their financial commitment under the cooperative agreement. The State of Wyoming has joined the partnership by giving \$700,000 for the Center. The cooperative agreement also requires non-Federal entities to establish a \$1 million endow-

ment, the interest thereof to maintain exhibits for the life of the Center. The overwhelming amount of non-Federal support for the Center is precisely the kind of cooperation Congress intended in managing and interpreting the historic trails of the Nation.

Under the cooperative agreement, the BLM has an important but limited role in establishing and operating the National Historic Trails Interpretive Center. The BLM has already completed a striking design as well as the engineering blueprints of the Center. With this work completed, the land available, and most of the non-Federal funds in hand, the Center is now ready to construction. This legislation provides congressional authorization of funds for the BLM to do so. Once the Center is completed, the BLM will own and operate the facility. However, with the endowment, the authorization to charge visitors a modest entrance fee, and commitments for volunteer staffing, the facility will be largely self-sustaining from a financial perspective. This is important in view of the present and anticipated future funding restrictions of the Federal Government.

In Wyoming, we are experiencing great interest in the historic trails that cross the State. In 1992, a year when visitation to Yellowstone National Park and Grand Teton National Park was down, the Wyoming Department of Tourism reported an increase in tourism along the Oregon Trail route during the sesquicentennial of that trail. This year is the sesquicentennial of the Mormon Pioneer Trail. BLM officials have estimated that between 200,000 and 1 million visitors participated in trials events in Wyoming this year. We expect similar interest in trails during the sesquicentennials of the California and Pony Express historic trails. In truth, an increasing number of Americans are discovering, enjoying, and learning the history of these treks and are seeking to experience natural settings, landmarks, and physical remains of the trails.

I am pleased with the broad level of support the National Historic Trails Interpretive Center enjoys. As noted earlier, the city of Casper and the State of Wyoming have provided tremendous assistance to this effort—for that I thank them. The Governor of Wyoming, Jim Geringer, as well as Wyoming's former Governor, Mike Sullivan, have endorsed the Center from the beginning. Wyoming's U.S. Senators, MIKE ENZI and CRAIG THOMAS, support the project. Especially gratifying has been the support and encouragement from interests outside of Wyoming, such as the Oregon-California Trails Association. I deeply appreciate the support of my respected colleague from Utah, Representative JIM HANSEN, who is co-sponsoring this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, the establishment of the National Historic Trails Interpretive Center is in the public interest. The project contains the best elements of private and public cooperation. The construction and operation of this Trails Center is altogether consistent with the BLM's criteria for projects of this kind. I urge my colleagues to help advance our efforts to preserve and interpret a significant chapter of American history by lending their support for this legislation.

A TRIBUTE TO THE ANDERSON MONARCHS BASEBALL TEAM

HON. THOMAS M. FOGLIETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 17, 1997

Mr. FOGLIETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a group of young athletes from south Philadelphia who have just returned from a barnstorming baseball tour in tribute to the late, great Jackie Robinson. The Anderson Monarchs are a team of 15 boys between the ages 8 and 12 who play in the RBI, Reviving Baseball in the Inner Cities, League of Philadelphia. The team is named for Jackie Robinson's Negro League team, the Kansas City Monarchs, and plays its home games at the Marian Anderson Recreation Center in the heart of south Philadelphia.

Leaving Philadelphia last week in a restored 1947 bus, the team drove west to participate in the Kansas City Royal's celebration of the 50th Anniversary of Jackie Robinson's entry into the Major Leagues. The team, sponsored by the Philadelphia Phillies, Mellon PSFS and Acme Markets, embarked on a 13-day journey that began with a game in Brooklyn, NY, the former home of Jackie Robinson's Dodgers. From Brooklyn, the Monarchs traveled to Cleveland, where they participated in All-Star game festivities, then played a game against a local team. From there it was off to Detroit, Chicago, and Iowa, where they visited the site of the Field of Dreams, made famous by the movie of that name. Many of these youngsters have never been far from the urban landscape of Philadelphia, so traveling through the rural Midwest was quite an experience for them.

In Kansas City, the Monarchs visited the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum, where they were introduced to Hall-of-Famer, Buck O'Neill, a former Monarchs teammate of Jackie Robinson. Meeting this living legend and hearing his bittersweet tales of the Negro Leagues was the high point of the trip for many of the young ballplayers.

From Kansas City the team bus wound its way back, with stops for games in St. Louis, Louisville, and Pittsburgh, before returning to Philadelphia. Mr. Speaker, these youngsters are more than just ballplayers, they are ambassadors for Philadelphia, and I have received reports that they have represented our city with great honor throughout their travels. They have learned about the legacy of segregation in baseball, and they have taught others of these lessons along the way. In honoring the anniversary of Jackie Robinson's entry into the Major Leagues, the Monarchs have been a major success. They have demonstrated admirably the sentiment engraved on Jackie Robinson's gravestone that, "A life is not important except in the impact it has on other lives." In recognition of their successful tour, I ask that my colleagues join me today in honoring Philadelphia's Anderson Monarchs.

IN MEMORY OF DAVID L. CINI

HON. SAM GEJDENSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 17, 1997

Mr. GEJDENSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with great sadness to pay tribute to David L.